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BRIDGE - BLEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the Year  
1 9 5 3



MALCOLM S. HARVEY, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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BRIDGE BLEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR A.J. ROSS, J.P.

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Public Health Committee

Councillor F.E. Spanton - (Chairman)  
Councillor A. Taylor - (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor E.W. Baker  
Councillor J.F. Montgomery  
Councillor A.R. Palmer  
Councillor T.S. Richens  
Councillor R.S. Poile  
Councillor Dr. R.A.C. McIntosh  
Councillor M.D. Jenkins

Ex Officio Members

Councillor A.J. Ross - (Chairman of the Council)  
Councillor Rev. Father J. McCarthy - (Vice-  
Chairman of the Council)

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

|                                  |     |                                        |
|----------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------------|
| Senior Sanitary Inspector        | ... | H.K. BLUNDELL, B.Sc., M.S.I.A.         |
| Additional Sanitary Inspector    | ... | J.W.A. Brewster, M.S.I.A.,<br>A.R.S.I. |
| Transport Officer                | ... | L. Bond                                |
| Public Health Department Foreman | ... | A. Vinten                              |

Clerical Staff: Clerks in the  
Senior Sanitary Inspectors Office ... Miss J. Manuel  
Miss M. Westoby

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Clerk of the Council:

L.J. WILLIAMS, Esq.

Engineer and Surveyor:

D.C. THOMPSON, Esq. M.I.Mun.E., A.M.I.S.E.

## HOUSING

### A. Number of Houses erected during 1953

|                                                             |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| New houses erected by the Council .. .. .                   | 68 |
| New houses under construction by the Council .. .. .        | 42 |
| New houses erected by Private Enterprise.. .. .             | 54 |
| New houses under construction by Private Enterprise .. .. . | 43 |
| Houses reconditioned under 1951 Housing Act .. .. .         | -  |
| Houses demolished .. .. .                                   | 6  |
| Houses otherwise closed for human habitation .. .. .        | -  |
| Conversions of properties into dwellings.. .. .             | -  |
| Conversions of properties in progress .. .. .               | -  |

### B. Inspections of Dwelling Houses during year

|                                                                                                                                                                       |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. (a) Number Inspected .. .. .                                                                                                                                       | 67 |
| (b) Number of Inspections made for that purpose .. .. .                                                                                                               | 86 |
| 2. (a) Number of dwelling houses included under Sub-Heading<br>(1) above which were inspected and recorded under the<br>Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.. .. . | 68 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for that purpose .. .. .                                                                                                               | 68 |
| 3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so<br>dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for<br>human habitation.. .. .                              | 7  |
| 4. Number of other dwelling houses found not to be in all<br>respects fit for human habitation .. .. .                                                                | 36 |
| 5. Number of cases of overcrowding at 31st December, 1952..                                                                                                           | 1  |
| 6. Number of such cases identified during 1953 .. .. .                                                                                                                | 2  |
| 7. Number of cases of overcrowding at 31st December, 1953..                                                                                                           | 3  |

### C. Remedy of Defects without service of Notice

|                                                                                               |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in<br>consequence of informal action .. .. . | 54 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|

### D. Action under Statutory Powers

|                                                                                         |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing<br/>Act, 1936.</u>          |   |
| (a) Number of dwelling houses on which notices were<br>served requiring repairs .. .. . | - |
| (b) Number rendered fit after service of formal notices:                                |   |
| By owners .. .. .                                                                       | - |
| By Local Authority in default .. .. .                                                   | - |

D. Action under Statutory Powers

2. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

|                                                                                                             |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| (a) Number of dwelling houses on which statutory notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. | 7 |
| (b) Number in which defects remedied after service of formal notices: - By owners .. ..                     | 5 |
| By Local Authority in default ..                                                                            | - |

3. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936

|                                                                      |   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| (a) Number of dwellings on which Demolition Orders were made .. .. . | 2 |
| (b) Number of dwellings demolished under Demolition Order            | 6 |

4. Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act, 1936

|                                                                                             |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Number of separate tenements or underground rooms on which closing orders were made .. .. . | - |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|

WATER

The District is served by four Water Undertakings, Margate, Herne Bay, Canterbury and Mid and East Kent. These Companies also have their catchment areas extending over a large part of the District. All of the water is drawn from deep wells and all supplies are chlorinated before distribution.

The waters generally are hard and only the Canterbury Water Company soften their water, the precipitated by-product being used for the production of toothpaste. The degree of residual hardness of the distributed water is 11. None of the waters have a plumbo-solvent action.

Routine samples were taken from all suppliers during the year and analysis proved them invariable to be good drinking waters.

| <u>Samples of Treated Water Taken</u> | <u>Water Undertaking</u> | <u>No.</u> | <u>Result</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Ford Cottages, Hoath .. ..            | Herne Bay                | 5          | Good          |
| Mill Lane, Bridge .. ..               | Margate                  | 4          | Good          |
| Out Elmstead Farm, Barham ..          | Mid and East Kent        | 4          | Good          |
| 41 Old Dover Road, Canterbury..       | Canterbury               | 4          | Good          |

Bacteriological samples of raw water were taken from wells etc., within the District. When submitted to the County Laboratory, the following results were obtained.

| <u>Place of Sampling</u>                               | <u>No. of Samples</u> | <u>Result</u>                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Chislet Court Farm, Chislet.                           | 1                     | Faecal contamination                       |
| Tile Farm, Sturry. .. ..                               | 2                     | Recent faecal contamination - Satisfactory |
| Upper Hardres Court .. ..                              | 3                     | Satisfactory                               |
| Upper Hardres Court Cottages                           | 2                     | Satisfactory                               |
| Manor House, Upper Hardres..                           | 2                     | Satisfactory                               |
| Bursted Manor .. ..                                    | 1                     | Recent faecal contamination.               |
| Palm Tree Cottage .. ..                                | 1                     | " " "                                      |
| Little Broxhall Cottages ..                            | 1                     | " " "                                      |
| Greenway Cotts., Lower Hardres                         | 1                     | " " "                                      |
| Seaview Bungalow, Hoath ..                             | 1                     | " " "                                      |
| Chislet Colliery (Underground spring in coal shaft) .. | 1                     | Satisfactory                               |
| Manor House Cottage, Upper Hardres (Rainwater tank)..  | 1                     | Satisfactory                               |
| Wood View Cottage, Bossingham                          | 2                     | Recent faecal contamination                |

The following table shows the source of supply for each Parish within the Rural District.

| <u>Name of Parish</u>                 | <u>Source of Supply</u>                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Adisham .. .. .                       | Margate Corporation                           |
| Barham .. .. .                        | Mid-Kent Water Company                        |
| Bekesbourne .. .. .                   | Margate Corporation                           |
| Bishopsbourne .. .. .                 |                                               |
| Bridge .. .. .                        | Canterbury Water Co. & Local Wells            |
| Chartham.. .. .                       |                                               |
| Chislet .. .. .                       | Canterbury Water Co. & Local Wells            |
| Fordwich.. .. .                       | Canterbury Water Company                      |
| Hackington .. .. .                    |                                               |
| Harbledown .. .. .                    | Herne Bay Water Company                       |
| Hoath .. .. .                         |                                               |
| Ickham and Well .. .. .               | Margate Corporation                           |
| Kingston.. .. .                       | Mid-Kent Water Company                        |
| Littlebourne .. .. .                  | Margate Corporation                           |
| Lower Hardres .. .. .                 | Canterbury Water Company                      |
| Patricbourne .. .. .                  | Margate Corporation                           |
| Petham .. .. .                        | Mid-Kent Water Company                        |
| St. Cosmus & St. Damian in the Blean) | Canterbury Water Company                      |
| Sturry .. .. .                        |                                               |
| Thanington Without .. .. .            | Canterbury Water Company and Rain Water Tanks |
| Upper Hardres .. .. .                 | Mid-Kent Water Company                        |
| Waltham .. .. .                       |                                               |
| Westbere.. .. .                       | Canterbury Water Company                      |
| Wickhambreaux .. .. .                 | Margate Corporation.                          |
| Womenswold .. .. .                    |                                               |

## INSPECTION OF FOOD

### Slaughterhouse Inspections

The question of slaughterhouses during 1953 was no different from that of the previous few years. Slaughtering of course being carried on in Canterbury, except for the occasional slaughter of a pig for private consumption. These were all inspected on request from the local butchers and no disease was found in any of these animals.

### Cafes, Restaurants and Hotels

There are 18 cafes within the area. As in the past, they cater for two different classes of customers, transport drivers and the others serving the villages and out of the way spots for the casual passer-by. The standard of catering during 1953 was generally good and a number of these places were run as family businesses and very seldom employ other than part-time staff.

The transport cafes generally, are also well run as it is found that a badly run transport cafe does not do good business. A number of inns in the district serve meals and the usual high standard was maintained. There are 7 transport cafes in the area.

### Public Houses and Inns

A number of improvements were carried out during the year to bring these premises more up to date. A great deal of work has been done generally, apart from the health side, to bring the public houses of the district up to date. There are within the district, 4 hotels and guest houses which accommodate visitors.

### Fish Frying Premises

There are still two fish fryers within the district and general standard of cleanliness is good.

### MILK

#### Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

|                                                 |   |
|-------------------------------------------------|---|
| Number of dealers' licenses issued .. .. .      | 9 |
| Number of supplementary licences issued .. .. . | 4 |

#### Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

|                                                 |    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----|
| Number of dealers' licences issued .. .. .      | 12 |
| Number of supplementary licences issued .. .. . | 4  |

### ICE CREAM

|                                                                             |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Number of premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream .. .. . | 50 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|

## INSPECTION OF FOOD (Cont.)

### Knackers Yard

The one knackers yard in the area carried on a thriving business in conjunction with a kennels and a retail cat and dog meat trade.

### Bakehouses

There are 12 bakehouses in the area. They range from those with old fashioned side fired ovens and no mechanical aids, up to modernised ones with steam heated ovens and automatic moulders, mixers, slicers and wrappers. They are all privately owned and generally the owner both bakes and delivers the bread. The general standard of cleanliness is high and suggestions for improvements are generally accepted and implemented.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

There are 91 premises coming within the definition of a factory within the area. Generally these consist of small localised workshops including bakers, joiners, garages and blacksmiths. There are, however, a few larger exceptions notably a printing and bookbinding business at Harbledown, a brickworks at Sturry and cast concrete manufacturers at Chartham and Westbere.

The following tables give the prescribed particulars under Section 123 of the Factories Act, 1937.

| Premises                                                                                 | Number<br>on<br>Register | Number of   |                    |                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|                                                                                          |                          | Inspections | Written<br>Notices | Occupiers<br>Prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities    | 7                        | 3           | -                  | -                       |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 84                       | 34          | -                  | -                       |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority               | -                        | -           | -                  | -                       |
| TOTAL                                                                                    | 91                       | 37          | -                  | -                       |

| Cases in Which Defects were Found                      |                                                |          |                      |                      |                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Particulars                                            | Number of Cases<br>in which Defects were Found |          |                      |                      | No. of Cases<br>in which<br>Prosecutions<br>were<br>Instituted |
|                                                        | Found                                          | Remedied | Referred             |                      |                                                                |
|                                                        |                                                |          | To H.M.<br>Inspector | By H.M.<br>Inspector |                                                                |
| Want of<br>Cleanliness                                 | 2                                              | 1        | -                    | 2                    | -                                                              |
| Unsuitable or<br>defective<br>sanitary<br>conveniences | 2                                              | 1        | -                    | 2                    | -                                                              |
| TOTAL                                                  | 4                                              | 2        | -                    | 4                    | -                                                              |

#### CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits are made following the report of cases of scarlet fever, poliomyelitis or food poisoning within the area. During these visits, information is sought concerning the spread of infection and steps taken to prevent it spreading further. In addition, information and advice are given to those responsible for the patients. During this year, 17 such visits have been made, the majority of these being concerned with scarlet fever. In such cases, disinfection of the patient's room is usually carried out immediately on removal of the patient, or if the patients are nursed at home, after they have recovered.

#### VERMINOUS HOUSES

No verminous houses were reported or discovered during the course of the year.

#### RODENT CONTROL

Rodent Control is carried out in the District by a half-time operator who deals with complaints from private and business premises.

During the year, 116 complaints of rodent infestation were received, comprising of 98 private dwellings, 12 business and 6 farms.

As in previous years, the sewers in the District have been test baited for rodent infestation, test baiting being carried out in 10% of the manholes of the sewage system. This entailed laying some 70 baits.

## RODENT CONTROL (Cont.)

No takes were recorded and in consequence the sewerage systems may be regarded as free from infestation. It is pleasing to record that this satisfying result has now occurred for four successive years, so that it is, in my opinion, safe to say that our sewers are rat free.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Drainage within the District is generally to cesspools, septic tanks and soakaways, there being sewers at Harbledown, Woolage Village, Westbere, and part of Sturry, and at three of the Council's post war housing estates. The Council runs a cesspool emptying fleet under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and during the year, 4,913 requests were received entailing the emptying of cesspools. Cesspools in Blean, Hoath, Chislet and Hackington are emptied by rota once in three months and those within the rest of the district by request at intervals of not less than three months.

The Council also runs a bucket closet emptying service, buckets being emptied at weekly intervals.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council runs four refuse vehicles and maintains a weekly collection of refuse throughout the District. This is disposed of at controlled tips at Chartham, Littlebourne and Womenswold.

## SALVAGE

During the year, the following tonnages were collected:

|                | <u>Tons</u> | <u>Cwts.</u> | <u>Qtrs.</u> |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Metal .. ..    | 1           | -            | 3            |
| Mixed Waste .. | 105         | 4            | -            |

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. SECTION 263

### Caravans

There are 5 licensed caravans within the area, 5 used as permanent homes. The permanent residents are generally elderly or retired people, who find the accommodation provided by a caravan adequate for their needs, or newly weds using a van as a temporary home until they can obtain a house.

There is also a licensed caravan site within the area with facilities for 60 vans. When originally licensed in 1949, this camp served as a base for a number of families on the Council's housing applicants list. Its character has changed since then and it now serves holiday vans and two elderly permanent residents.

Caravans (Cont.)

There are no permanent gipsy camps in the area but a group of five or six vans frequently pass through. These travellers provide casual labour to farmers within the District and generally camp on the farms where they are employed.

HOP-PICKERS' CAMPS

There are 13 camps within the District providing, at a maximum, accommodation for 3,000 people. They vary considerably in size from 20 to 120 huts. The more recently built huts are constructed of concrete blocks on the suggested lines of the Ministry's pamphlet, having openable ventilators and glazed windows, and provide a good standard of accommodation. It is found, however, that the windows are broken during the winter months. All but one of the camps have piped water supplies.

The number of pickers employed at the camps throughout the District totalled over 2,500, the earliest arrivals commencing work in June and working progressively through from hop training to soft fruits, harvesting, hop-picking and finally potato picking. These early arrivals set the general tone of the camp for the more crowded months during the hop-picking season so that visits to camps commence early in the year to ensure that a high standard is set for the later arrivals.